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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication will have rejected articles returned they must send in all cases and stamps for that purpose.

### The Pension "If."

Our neighbor the Tribune adds this important qualification to its judicious remarks upon the narrowing functions and approaching dissolution of the Pension Bureau:

"If no new general pension law is passed there must soon be a marked decrease in the pension roll and in pension expenditures."

We agree with our neighbor. Under shelter of that "if" it is perhaps safe to predict, as the Tribune does, that "the supply of claims growing out of the civil war will be practically exhausted in five or ten years." Indeed, a similar qualification would probably have warranted a similar prophecy twenty years ago when the total number of pensions and the total of expenditure for pensions were a little more than half of what they are at present.

Does our neighbor recall the opinion expressed by JAMES A. GARFIELD, as chairman of the Committee on Appropriations in 1872, that "we may reasonably expect that the expenditures for pensions will steadily decrease, unless our legislation should be unerringly extravagant?" When that prediction was uttered by General GARFIELD the high water mark of pension expenditure was \$30,763,000. Last year the figures were \$184,500,287.

Garfield's "unless" and the Tribune's "if" are words of some importance in the respective forecasts.

### "Blanket" Citizenship for the Porto Ricans.

On March 15 the Committee on Insular Affairs reported to the House a "bill to provide a civil government for Porto Rico, and for other purposes," a measure designed to take the place of the now outgrown Foraker law of April 12, 1900. That law was specifically entitled "An act temporarily to provide revenues and a civil government for Porto Rico." It has served its purpose and there is now need of urgent demand for a broader measure. Last Wednesday Representative OLNEY, as chairman of the committee having charge of the matter, addressed the House on the subject and announced the purpose of the committee to submit certain important amendments to the bill reported in March.

One of the proposed changes affects the matter of citizenship. The original bill provided citizenship for those who want it enough to appear before a court, declare their desire and take an oath of allegiance. After that had been done they would receive, without delay and without charge, a certificate of citizenship. This plan has at all times encountered stubborn opposition, to which the committee has yielded. It is proposed to amend the bill so that it will read "that all citizens of Porto Rico are hereby declared and shall be deemed and held to be citizens of the United States." The matter is not of vital importance probably, but for various reasons citizenship by individual application rather than by "blanket" provision has seemed to us, as it did to a majority of the committee, the better method. However, as Mr. OLNEY says, "when this bill shall have become law each Porto Rican brother will stand forth paroled with all the blessings and glories of a citizenship which will entitle him to all the protection which the power, the influence, the dignity and if need be the arms and navies of the United States can afford." The committee believes that in this manner "the boon will be most gratefully received and most highly appreciated." The present plan seems to carry out the declaration of the party platform of 1908, which expressed the intent to confer citizenship on the Porto Ricans "collectively."

Another proposed change by amendment of the original bill relates to the Insular Senate. At present the lower house is elective, while the upper branch is an executive council appointed by the President. The scheme reported in March effectively separated the executive and the legislative branches, but it provided for a Senate of thirteen members, five to be elected by the people and eight to be appointed by the President, the appointees as well as the elected members to be "residents of and property holders in Porto Rico." There has been a desire and demand for a body wholly elective. A compromise is now proposed so that for the first four years there will be seven appointive and five elective Senators. For the next eight years there will be seven appointive and six elective. For the four years following there are to be six appointive and seven elective, "and so on

down gradually until the thing works itself out and they all in time are made elective." This looks a long way ahead, and it is readily presumable that change will be made if the islanders develop, as they doubtless will, a more clearly recognized capacity for self-government. Under the scheme proposed more than forty years would be required for the complete elimination of appointed Senators. The affairs of the island will undergo many changes before those years have passed.

These are the important changes in a bill which THE SUN reviewed several weeks ago. On the whole it is an excellent bill, carefully drawn after full and fair hearing and investigation. It does not grant all that some of the professional politicians of the island desire, and it probably grants more than some in this country think wise and proper. There is absolutely nothing in it that in any way unsafe, nothing that cannot be easily corrected if there is any abuse of privileges. Much depends, in any case, on the wisdom and the tact of the appointed Governor. Thus far we have heard nothing except sincere praise for Governor COLTON.

### Robert Koch.

In the marvelous achievements with the aid of the microscope which modern science has made in the segregation and identification of the germs of disease ROBERT KOCH had a distinguished share. He had the good fortune to take up the study of bacteriology while that branch of medical research was young, and by the ingenious improvements in instruments and the early discovery of the microbes peculiar to common diseases to demonstrate the practical scientific value of what until his time, in Germany at least, was little more than probable theory. The rapid advance in the investigation of germs may cast his fame in the shade, or it may be that medical science may turn to other fields of research, but Koch's name has a secure place in the history of medicine through his discovery of the bacillus of tuberculosis, that of cholera, and probably those of the rinderpest and of the sleeping sickness.

Great as were his services in the discovery of germs, he was not so successful in his endeavors to find the means for combating their activity. This was not entirely his fault. The impatience of the public and his own natural eagerness to secure at once immunity for humanity against its great plague led to the premature preparation of a serum which, apparently, has not yet proved efficacious as a remedy. National rivalry also interfered with Koch's own arrangement of his work. The desire to keep Germany in the front rank in bacteriology, and especially ahead of France, made the Government repeatedly call on KOCH to make new investigations when his time might have been given to the study of the germs already discovered. This and his exploitation in the newspapers, to which he does not seem to have been averse, made scientific men in his later years regard the announcement of discoveries by him with some degree of scepticism; they preferred to wait, at any rate, until his full explanation was made.

He remains, notwithstanding, one of the foremost leaders in investigations which are among the greatest of the nineteenth century gave birth to; a founder of the science of bacteriology.

### The Goose March.

Reform, modern and inconvenient creature, has attacked that which seemed full buttressed and secure against all reform, the German army. The higher criticism has essayed to prove to us what CAMBRIDGE really said when the guard rendered not but died. We find that modification was introduced into PHILIP's Macedonian phalanx. But we thought that when Father FRITZ took hold of the Prussian wampinshaw and gave it the goose march as a mark of honor, he had created. Against this kriegsgrund reform has beaten as unavailingly from within as armed battalions of half of Europe have charged from without in vain.

But a greater than FRITZ is now War Lord in the German fatherland. Still sings the warrior in a score of dialects "Du Schwert am meinem Linke," but the edict of reform has issued. And when we consider the WILHELM from whom the edict issues we may regret the passing of the picturesque, but we know that the order will be obeyed. Hereafter BELLONA in walking and mining as she goes must make no tinkling with her feet; her blackish sister, horrida BELLA, may even trip and stumble over her light fantastic toe. The wimples and crisping pins are to vanish from the face of war awfully arrayed. The latest general orders come certainly from Potsdam, for no less a figure than a WILHELM would ever dare to amend a FRIEDRICH der Grosse.

Here is the text of this order, a reforming order, nay, revolutionary. Hereafter the German soldier is forbidden, he is "streng verboten" and beyond this German has no reserve power of inhibition "to raise the foot which is being carried to the front higher than is necessary to take a correct pace, or to place it on the ground with unnecessary force." For the benefit of civilians, for the pèkin, for him who goes ever clad in mufti as his only wear, we explain the meaning of this new ordinance of tactics. In these few words the goose step, which has led to a thousand German victories, is abolished. We have pleasant memories of the goose march in this city; it was the biggest show of our Hudson and Fulton jubilation. Now it has gone to join the spontaneous which an act of Congress of 1792 requires us to bear on general training day.

### Accidents to Submarines.

In spite of the loss of several submarines with all on board the faith of France in this type of warship or instrument of warfare has not been shaken. On March 31 England had three submarines on her navy list, sixty-three to fifty-six possessed by France; but France has twenty-three building to eleven planned by England, which in-

dures the lead for France, as these little hornets are quickly constructed.

The Pluviose, which went down off Calais after colliding with a passenger steamship on May 26, was one of the most celebrated submarines in the French navy. In last year's maneuvers between Brest and Cherbourg she alone of several submarines engaged "succeeded in torpedoing the squadron in its passage." She made a run of 730 miles in 82 hours without a stop. The British submarine No. A.1 was also sunk in collision with a steamship. In fact, the submarines are peculiarly susceptible to contact with any part of a ship in motion (the Pluviose was struck by a paddle wheel) or with any immovable body, although it may be small; yet their speed seldom exceeds ten knots and they are supposed to be buoyant. Their plates are, however, thin, and a rent is likely to be fatal.

At the best the submarine is a delicate piece of mechanism. The loss of the Latin off Bizerta with all her crew was occasioned by the lodging of a pebble in a sea valve which stopped the operation of a lever used to raise her to the surface. The position of the bodies of her crew showed that as soon as her plight was discovered discipline must have ceased. If he had not been impeded by the crowding of two men into the cupola the commander, who was found with his right hand clutching the exit ladder, would probably have been able to work a crank designed to open a hood for the escape of those on board.

Naval Constructor LAWRENCE Y. SPEAR, U. S. N., after a study of the accident sinking of the English boats A.1 and A.2, the French boats Furfadet and Lutin and the Russian Dolphin, attributed the catastrophes either to carelessness or incompetence. The Dolphin's ballast tanks were flooded while the hatch was open; a hatch of the Furfadet was leaking when she went down; the same was true of the English boat A.1, although in her case there was the excuse of a collision with a passing vessel; A.2, running on the surface at a high speed, was driven under with an open hatch; the pebble in the Lutin's sea valve, investigation showed, was caused by contact with the bottom some day before she foundered and should have been discovered. In his report, written just before he died, Lieutenant SAKUMA of the Japanese submarine lost in Hiroshima Bay on April 15, said that "in making a gasoline dive the boat sank lower than was intended, and in our attempt to close the sea valve the chain broke." When she grounded on the bottom "bad gas was generated," and the crew was soon asphyxiated.

It has been claimed for the United States submarines, of which we now have eighteen (ten are building), that they are constructed with greater care than the boats of the European navies and are equipped with strong tanks for containing water ballast and easily operated machinery for ejecting this ballast in an emergency. The American system of training the men is methodical and thorough. So successful on the whole have been experiments with the American submarines that Secretary MYERS has recently issued an order extending their radius of action and ordering that war risks be regularly incurred in maneuvering with them hereafter.

### The Washington Irving Trail.

Those busy societies that are emblazoning history and their own names upon local walls and trees might find inspiration in the endeavors of their coworkers in the West. There they are seizing history in the making, and before it has become encrusted with age and moss they record it in bronze and stone, so that even those who participate may read and profit. In Kansas competing societies spent time and money in preserving the old Santa Fe trail, and now miles of prairie where the coyotes still howl and the jackrabbits leap are marked with stones inscribed with the names of those who have set them up. Not to be outdone by her sister to the north, Oklahoma has also decided to mark her historic shrines. It was quite generally agreed that the Santa Fe trail that State was too uncertain to be traced across the alkali plains and sandhills. In the quest, then, of a trail to mark it was remembered that WASHINGTON IRVING had written:

"This seems to me to be the promised land, the land flowing with milk and honey. On the rich herbage of the prairies will be fed herds of cattle as numerous as the sands upon the seashore, and the flowers that bedeck the prairies will be a paradise for a meadow-loving being."

To the enterprising citizens of a young State no outburst of land agent was ever worded so well. So it was decided to mark the trail of WASHINGTON IRVING in his journey of 1822. A local paper says:

"With the intention of beginning the marking of the Washington Irving trail across Oklahoma the Daughters of the American Revolution during their recent annual convention in Oklahoma City appointed a committee of five women to direct the work."

The record of the trail is found in one of IRVING's lesser works, "A Tour on the Prairies." In the story of this journey which the author has left us he tells of going to Fort Gibson, then a post of considerable renown in the undeveloped West, and starting from there on an expedition to the Pawnee hunting grounds near the Texas border. His route lay to the southwest and along the banks of the Arkansas and Red rivers. He spent some time at Fort Gibson, and under an old elm tree he wrote part of "Tales of a Traveller." This spot has been marked by a stone properly inscribed.

From this point the society will take up the trail, putting a stone here and there to mark a night encampment, another perhaps where BRATTE, he of "a sullen, saturnine expression," was first discovered, and another where the young Osage buck came into vision. A tablet may be erected stating that "on the site of this thriving village once existed the prairie dog town of which WASHINGTON IRVING wrote"; another may tell where IRVING brought down a buffalo, and still another where he "creased" the shoulder of a young stallion. Thus will the memory of modest feats and the names of their commemo-

rators ring in history. It was a great piece of foresight on the part of this famous author that he mentioned "the promised land, the land flowing with milk and honey," otherwise his fame might have died. What a lesson is here for the rising author. Speak well of the land that you visit, for you know not what society may arise thereon to make you immortal.

No sooner does Art get a good start in Kansas City than carping obstructionists arise. Since the days when the Alderman from the West Bottoms made those reasonable remarks about the state of artistic culture along the Kaw it has been maintained that all that was needed was the proper atmosphere to encourage the delicate growth. Attempting to fill this municipal void certain gentlemen from Naples, Sicily and Mulberry street opened the "Boma," "Naples," "Torino" and other places such as furnish table d'hôte Bohemianism and art encouragement in the neighborhood of our own Washington Square and along uptown side streets. What was the reception? The Journal tells in these words:

"There are strong indications that the power of public opinion will force the Board of Police Commissioners to take action looking to the abolition of the 'spaghetti joints.'"

Further the paper says: "Here is found the quaint Bohemian atmosphere that lures the innocent to degradation." Then the Rev. F. L. BOWEN and Dr. J. C. GUTMAN, Alderman from the Thirteenth ward, go "sleuthing" and make reports. They find that liquor is served, that there is dancing, singing and other amusements:

"All this and more was told to the ministers of Kansas City by one of their number who had obtained this information at first hand."

Any one who has enjoyed the exhilarating influence of the New York 50 cent table d'hôte and drunk the pink wine must wonder at Kansas City. Who that has sat at a table in one of these places does not remember the habitués that points out the young man with a flowing cravat and adds in an undertone, "Writing a poem that will astonish the world," or the cornet player woman "doing a novel that will make them all back numbers," or the youth with the long hair that will be declared "the greatest artist that ever was as soon as he finishes the painting that he is working on?" On every side sit the great, inspired and inspiring. Yet would Kansas City close these temples of Bohemia and send guests to mope at home or in the precincts of the "Boma," where fried potatoes hold the place. Does True Art thrive on such? Is not Kansas City throttling it in its nursery?

### FOR SMALL INVESTORS.

Why Should Not \$1000 Railroad Bonds Be Issued?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Bond houses and bond salesmen complain that many investors have turned from railroad bonds to the more attractive irrigation and similar securities which yield a higher rate of interest. The course of these investors is natural under present circumstances and will continue, but might not the railroads make successful appeal if they cared to do it, to American small investors, a class which as a rule they seem to scorn?

We read of American railroad bonds of \$100 and \$500. How many railroad or industrial bonds of these denominations are offered to American investors? If only two or three. The majestic unit in the United States is \$1,000. The irrigation and other "outside" bonds may be had in \$100 and multiples thereof.

The proposed reduction of the rate of interest on savings bank deposits will reduce, when it comes, a very considerable amount of capital. The railroad or the sound industrial enterprise which will offer \$100 bonds, I believe, attract a great deal of this capital.

Why not give the small investor a chance? A SMALL INVESTOR.

NEWARK, N. J., May 28.

### A Study in Mystery.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: "V. J." is puzzled by the fact that while a death occurring in the so-called game of football calls forth columns of horror and protest a fatality at baseball is regarded with comparative indifference. The explanation is perfectly simple. It is that of a fatality or even an injury at baseball is practically always an "accident," that is to say, an unforeseen and unexpected occurrence, the same incidents at football are the logical and natural result of the method and principles of the "game," the "accident" being a mere by-product and employed with the characteristic national slovenliness as regards the exact meaning of words.

The "hygiene" as manifested in the press last November and December, although being a very real and somewhat bitter in its aim and confused in its direction, was a protest against the methods and principles and not against occasional casualties inseparable from any branch of bodily activity. It remains to be seen whether the slaking which the rules have recently undergone has done any good.

NEW YORK, MAY 27.

### "Grat" and Other Slang.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The analogy of the slang of "grat" is not very apparent. The expression denoted originated with some man possessing a knowledge of gardening, but it is not good slang. Anyhow, it is a pity it has supplanted to such an extent the good old English word "gratitude." It is a pity that such of the "renewed" and "disputed" which attached to the latter has been removed.

With regard to American slang in general it may be said that while it is often picturesque and striking it is rarely apt or witty and still less, when it comes to "grat," it is rarely of the stamp of its origin, which is among the masses. Curiously enough, in England slang seems to originate among the classes. Anything with a savour of vulgarity never becomes popular there.

NEW YORK, MAY 27.

### Ned Harrigan as a City Improver.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The proposed extending pool in place of the Central Park reservoir calls very vividly to mind one of Harrigan's old "grat" sayings. It was in the "grat" of the old Theatre Comique, Broadway near Waverly place, that "Cordelia's Aspirations" first saw the light. Ned Harrigan was an Irish politician, running for Governor and canvassing for votes in a colored district. In one of his discouraging speeches he delivered the following lines, delivered them as only Ned Harrigan could, with his inimitable Irish brogue:

"If I am elected Governor, I will turn the Forty-second street reservoir into a free swimming bath for the blacks."

Is it possible that our present city authorities are attempting to redeem a similar pledge? NEW YORK, MAY 27.

### Salaries of Employees of the New York Public Library.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: There has been some discussion of late of the salaries paid men in the employ of the city public library. It has been said that such employees in many cases receive only \$40 a year. If this is true it is a pity that the attention of those at the head of the library should be called to the fact that they may take the necessary steps to have such salaries raised to a more reasonable figure. A man can't live and dream in New York on such wages, and if he has a family God pity him.

NEW YORK, MAY 27.

### Epithets on a Gutter.

From the Washington City Herald. A stranger, seen here within the last week, said the body of a gutter boy, of whom Whitey had been told might with truth be said to be a gutter boy, was lying dead.

### SIDEGLIMPS IN EUROPE.

#### Germany.

From captain almost to cabin boy there were uniforms of blue with gold braid and brass buttons, but amidst the down near the administrative offices I used every day or two to meet a tall, broad shouldered German in a uniform that was immaculate but had not a vestige of gold or brass. He had a fine, well poled head and broad forehead. His face, clean shaven down to the neatly trimmed chin beard, wore an expression that was both stern and benignant, comporting with a serious manner. Some immediate representative of the company's head office, I thought, an inspector of accounts or methods, an administrative expert of some sort or another who holds the substance but seems the trappings of authority. Half a dozen times in the voyage we passed, exchanging grave salutes. As I was in the midst of the fusing with bags and belongings preparatory to the landing there was a knock on my cabin door. I opened it and there was the man of dignity. He said "Boots." With befitting composure I extended to him a dollar.

At the railway station in Bremerhaven I started from the platform to cross the two tracks intervening between me and the train. A kind friend pulled me back, saying: "Here! Don't do that. You'll be arrested by a major-general and sixteen gendarmes and fined seventeen cents." Thereupon I turned and went down through the tunnel, as was entirely proper, and for the first time boarded a railroad train on the Continent of Europe, eager for the comparison for which travel over many thousands of miles and on nearly every railroad in the United States had given some preparation. This was a "light" railroad over the short distance from Bremerhaven to Bremen.

We scattered through the special car that the Government had graciously provided for our party, putting our end of hand baggage on the racks above the seats in the compartments that were divided one from another by partitions reaching to the ceiling. At one side a narrow passageway ran along the car. Entrance and exit were effected through side doors, of which there was one for each compartment, which the occupant could open at will even while the train was running. A little man in blue with red trimmings would appear and disappear like a jack in the box, emerging through one and diving out of another side door to a narrow board such as runs along one of our open trolley cars, which was the only means by which passage could be had from one car to another. This was the trainman. The conductor wore a military looking uniform that seemed to rank him as a non-commissioned officer. A strap over one shoulder supported a satchel, the use for which was not immediately apparent, as he did not take up the tickets. He examined each ticket and dashed a line across the face with a blue pencil. When a passenger leaves a train he alights on an enclosed platform and emerges through a gate, where he surrenders his ticket to another functionary in uniform. This of course makes necessary not only an enclosed platform but relays of ticket takers at each station. Many railroad officers of the United States say that it is the logical and better method for the passenger to retain his ticket until the journey is ended, but that the expense incident to carrying out the practice is prohibitive except in regions of dense population and heavy traffic. Attached to the wall of the lavatory of the car was a basin working on a pivot which could be filled with water from one or two tin cans that stood on the floor. A little box on the wall contained a dozen or so hand towels at Bremerhaven that were used long before arrival at Berlin.

At the station in Berlin a man of distinguished appearance, clad in a frock coat and white waistcoat, placed us in automobiles and displayed great energy in securing and adjusting the baggage. This was a courier from the hotel, and his efficiency was the first example of the carefulness and thoroughness that characterizes the service in the better hotels throughout the Continent of Europe and especially in Germany. Before being given to a railway porter, to whom I tendered the regulation fee of 10 pfennige, about two and a half cents. He angrily pushed it away and retained the bag. The offer of another 10 pfennige piece did not mollify, but a third propitiated him. At the hotel, ablaze with light and splendor, we were met by clerks in frock coats. All the managers and clerks, those who "meet the public," in the hotels of Europe wear frock coats while on duty. The reception clerk assigns the patron, who is designated a trifle more accurately as a "visitor" instead of a "guest," to his room. From an accounting office, usually out of sight, is received the bill, which is paid by the cashier. The man who attends to everything else is the "porter." In the United States the clerk is the whole thing, and the porter a hireling who looks after the baggage. In Europe the porter, as a young German expressed it, "is the boss of the hotel." He arranges for the sending and delivery of packages, the securing of carriages and theatre tickets, looks up the time of trains, and does a thousand and one other things for the convenience of the visitor, as well as being a human guidebook. He does not receive a salary, but pays for his position at a rate that is in a hotel of his rank, nevertheless, often enables him to accumulate a fortune in years of service. For sheer cleanliness, excellence of service and general attractiveness there are no hotels equal to the best of Germany. The waiters are immaculate in appearance, attentive and unobtrusively deferential. The maids wear neat uniforms and answer a summons with a cheerful "Bitte," which in this case means "at your service." Many of them are good looking. In no one of the half dozen hotels upon which these generalizations are based did I see even one of the alternations that are only too noticeable in the halls of many hotels even of high standing in the United States. Their willing disposition was exemplified the first morning in Berlin. After a night's sleep on land following a week at sea the first thought was to arrange for clean linen, and as soon as foot was placed out of bed I telephoned for a bellboy. There was a knock at the door, which I opened to find not a bellboy but a husky girl in a maid's cap and gown. She was almost in the room before I hastily asked her to wait a minute, a request the necessity for which she evidently did not perceive, although I stood before her in a single scant garment. I closed the door and encased myself in a bathrobe. Then she reentered with an offended look as though I thrust in her face the suggestion that she might in some way take advantage of my lack of attire. This was the first introduction to the recognition so general in Europe that the human body is what it is.

The rooms of these German hotels are

spotless. The bathrooms are large and apparently never a one without good light and outside ventilation; the bathtubs massive and capacious, the plumbing solid and reliable. In each room is a small table in front of a sofa, and this is a characteristic of German house furnishing. In the United States a chair seems to be the necessary adjunct of a table, but in Germany it is a sofa.

The impression of cleanliness given by the hotels is supported by the streets that seem to have been freshly manured over night, and there are no holes in the pavements such as disgrace even Fifth avenue in New York. The buildings are of stone or cement that does not vary a great deal in color. They are from four to six stories in height throughout nearly all of the city, municipal regulation forbidding the erection of skyscrapers; and there are few vacant building lots, construction having extended compactly. Yet the uniformity is not oppressive as was that of the rows of brownstone fronts that a generation ago were the pride of New York. Taxicabs and the open droshkys so abundant that in any of the central parts of the city an uplifted finger will bring one immediately to service, and the fares are so low that it seems miserly to use the taxicabs.

The people likewise are clean, and apparently all of the Teutonic race. In New York and Chicago the yellow and the black races are much in evidence, but not in Berlin, where people on the streets turned around to look at our colored porter.

Two soldiers are passing. Suddenly their hands rise in salute. Approaching them is an officer, tall and slender, wearing a towering cap without visor and a close fitting overcoat that reaches quite to the ankles. His hand also is in salute. Officer and soldiers maintain this position eye to eye as they pass, and each turns, not discontinuing the salute until they have passed five feet or more. The gaze of the man is fine and straightforward, that of the officer a condescending leer. Later I saw many officers and nearly all with countenances open and honest although stern and weatherbeaten. That first impression of German militarism was forbidding and certainly deceptive. Yet unless looks belie the man the Kaiser has on the roster of his officers the name of at least one dominating figure.

On the afternoon of the first day in Berlin I heard a sound like that of the bell rung outside a store in an interior town where an auction is in progress. I looked around for the red flag that usually accompanies the bell, but my eyes fell upon a very old fashioned steam engine about half the size of one of those in use in New York and Chicago. It was pulled by two horses who were mildly galloping, while a man on the seat beside the driver was ringing a hand bell. At an interval of fifty or sixty feet came the hook and ladder of an equally primitive type at a similarly moderate pace. The cavalcade attracted little attention. How different from the spectacle in any large American city where there is the clatter of the automatic gongs and every one turns to look at what is really an impressive pageant.

The Germans eat. They eat many times a day, and they eat a good deal. There are offices in which sandwiches are the motive for a recess in the morning and for another in the afternoon. This is to say nothing of the beer. An irreverent person remarked: "You can see these Germans at a theatre during a tragedy, when every character on the stage is being killed, munching away at their sandwiches." In Berlin are restaurants of tremendous capacity; at least one of them has seating accommodations for 5,000 persons, and the food is good, well served and cheap. At a summer resort a building erected around two sides of a square has a series of porches rising in three tiers on which are tables and chairs for nearly 4,000 persons. In the hollow of the rectangle grass covered terraces lead down to a lake with boats that are illuminated at night. Here at a summer evening apparently every seat was occupied with clerks, small shopkeepers, wage workers, all with their families, and all clean and orderly, dining on good fare served at prices within their means. I asked, "Why cannot this sort of thing be done in New York?" The reply was, "Can you conceive of 4,000 persons such as these eating and drinking throughout the day, a single case of drunkenness or the first need for a policeman?" I thought I could and instanced the orderliness of the crowds at Coney Island.

It is not alone the middle classes of Germany that are fond of eating. One night I was at a dinner given by the acknowledged head of one of the great industries, a man who, as he told me, "began to earn his own bread at 14 and at 21 was the head of an industrial corporation, just like the United States." At 61 this man has the fire and energy of 45, and interests as wide as the empire. His beautiful home was adorned by women replete with medals bedecked sashes. The dinner was of many courses, all delectable, and in Germany I did as the Germans do. Never before or since have I eaten so much at one time. Yet within half an hour following the after dinner dispersal to the verandas and the garden waiters began to pass salvers laden with sweetmeats and tipples and things to drink, but I was not the only one who could eat no more.

Another evening I was at dinner with one of the junior officers of the Ministry and his family. At its close he said to me: "There is a German custom which we like to observe in our home." We arose, clapped hands around the table and said "Guten nacht," which means "I wish you good digestion."

In these German cities scraps must not be thrown in the streets and garbage must be removed at short and regular intervals. Closed umbrellas must not be carried with points up. At the foot of the stairs in an office building you are likely to see a small rug and above it a hand pointing down, with perhaps the legend "Bitte," which in this case means what in the United States would be expressed by "Please wipe your feet." You do not open the office door and walk in, but press a button and tell the servant whom you want to see, just as though you were calling at a private residence. Every now and then in the vestibule of an office building, a bank or a department store you will see a contrivance which makes you guess for a second and then brings a smile. Attached to the wall is a bit of wood or metal several inches long or maybe two or three such pieces one above the other, with the tops corrugated into a series of small receptacles each designed to hold a partly smoked cigar. You are not expected to smoke in the building, neither are you expected to be wasteful. At the principal department store an attendant stands beside this delicate device gracefully watching the men deposit their cigars as they go in and take them up when

they go out. It is even alleged that he remembers each man and the place in which he leaves his stump and estops the thrifty who would benefit by an exchange. This reminds me that one evening I walked from the hotel to the opera house smoking the kind of cigar that usually follows an uncommonly good dinner. More than half of it remained to be thrown with regret out beyond the curb. In a second or two from the passersby emerged a neatly dressed middle aged really comfortable looking man, who picked up that fragment, deliberately cut off a part of the end that had been in my mouth, then put it in his own and walked away, smoking with evident satisfaction.

### SHORT TOWN MEETINGS.

Considering Volume of Business Transacted Brookline Holds the Record.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The SUN of May 25 prints from the Kennebec Journal an item to the effect that "Previous to this time it has been the record of holding the shortest town meeting ever known." In ten minutes it organized and "passed over" an article to vote additional money for highways.

At a town meeting in Danbury, Conn., December 7, 1883, \$50,000 was appropriated, without debate and with a roar that shook the house, for the employment of aid to any inhabitant in need of partial support. The meeting being called to order and adjourned all within five minutes.

But these two precedents from Maine and Connecticut are rather negative than positive, for one was merely a "pass over" and the other was a futile effort probably never becoming operative and should have been ruled out of order.

The town of Brookline, Mass., is supposed to hold the record for the efficient dispatch of municipal business in town meeting. Situated in the geographical centre of Boston's metropolitan district, its business includes the most advanced and progressive municipal functions. No town in the land is required to appropriate so much money. Its assessed valuation is about \$104,000,000, its population about 27,000, its rate of taxation \$10.50 on \$1,000 and its voters about 4,500. Its annual town report for 1909 records but two town meetings for deliberation and appropriation, the annual meeting in the spring and a special meeting in December. At the former, after the election of town officers, the town on March 20, 1909, disposed finally of a warrant of twenty-two articles, including appropriations amounting to about \$1,600,000, in one hour and forty-eight minutes; at the other town meeting, held December 29,